April 1990

NCMC Update

An Official bi-monthly Publication of the National Capital Macintosh Club

MacWorld Tidbits

Breakthrough Products Rare at Mac Show

The MacWorld San Francisco show drew as much attention within computer circles as the opening of baseball season among sports enthusiasts.

Fans clogged the Moscone Centre for the 4 day event, but inside some developers were biting their nails over the uncertain state of the Macintosh market, with little ground breaking technology, which in the past has featured hot new products and applications.

Some of the new products turned a few heads though. Aaps Corp. showed its DigiVideo computer boards, which allows a Mac to act as a video cassette recorder. The 98 channel $ 595 US tuner and video recorder could be an important tool for publishers that use video tapes. SuperMac showed its 21 inch color monitor, $ 4799 US, which allows users to view two colour pages at the same time.

The System 7 introduction may have been slowing the release of new products. Slated for introduction in the Fall of 90, many developers seemed to be holding back on new releases, or major upgrades. Of interest, Ashton Tate will be releasing a new version of Full Impact, including the ability to read Excel 2.2 BIFF file format. Claris will release Filemaker Pro, and was getting excellent reviews from demo attendees. Symantec will release a MORE II update with enhanced graphic presentation capabilities.

Attendees also got a look and feel at the former Wallaby, now called the Outbound Laptop System. Weighing under 10 pounds, it sells for $ 3000, and is designed to use the ROM out of your Mac Plus or SE. When *docked* or connected, to its ROM-less host, the Outbound makes use of the screens, storage, keyboards, and peripherals of both machines. It also provides an accelerator and extra storage and memory.

There's more....

Tidbits from the Aisles at Moscone

• *MicroNet* 20 Mbyte portable drives were selling for $ 329.00 US.Hope we can expect such rare deals when MacWorld Expo hits Toronto in October !!

• *ON Location* is the newest software sensation, a DA that locates files quickly, by filename or the words in the files. Once you've found the files you want, you can view and copy information from them without opening their applications. Demoed by Mitch Kapor of 1-2-3 fame, it is most impressive. Cost was $ 79.00 US

• *Adobe Type Reunion* went on sale, allowing you to shorten and organize your font menus by grouping font styles into submenus.

• *WordPerfect 2* for the Mac had a demo which looked like they finally got it together. Lots of new, impressive features with a Macintosh feel, including graphics handling, drawing and editing graphics, styles, borders, macros, sort, language support, document portability, and a 115,000 word expandable speller. Due for release in 3Q. along with *WordPerfect Office.*

• *Music Data* was selling sequences for a variety of music from the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's, plus country, R&B, classic. $ 39.

• *Adobe Photoshop* demo made it so easy to modify a photo using your Mac and a scanner. Available now.

• *Radius Swivel Display* was a definite hit. Priced as low as $ 1195 including card, this device provides either horizontal or vertical display by simply rotating the display on its swivel. Not bad!

• *ColourBoard 364* from RasterOps provided NTSC video input right on your MacII screen.

• *PageMaker 4* looked good, with such features as Table of Contents and the ability to switch tools using the Command and Space bar. Shipping 2nd quarter of '90.

• *Soft PC* is now shipping and works with System 7. Emulates EGA colour and can emulate programs which require a math coprocessor.

• *InitPicker II* was released as a free upgrade at the show, allowing multiple sets of inits, as well as a *BombGuard* incompatibility detection.

• *NEC CDR-35* CD player with CD-ROM compatibility. Slow, but inexpensive, and portable. $ 475.00

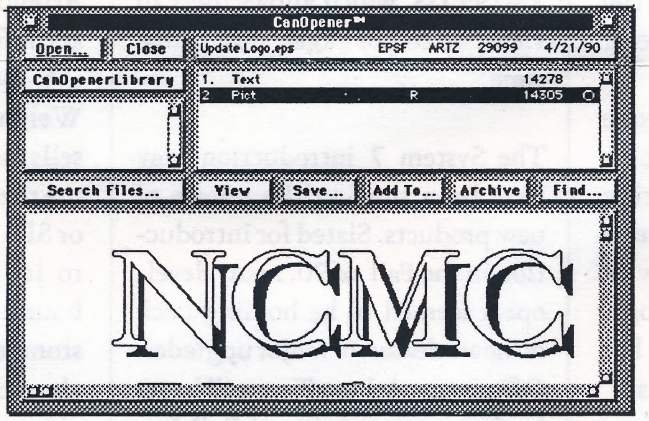
• *Quark Express 3.0* Shown, but not released.

• We also met Guy Kawasaki who was signing his book. He seemed to be enjoying his new found career as promoter, writer and author, and we took his advice to visit the local San Francisco *Nordstrom* store. Yes, they do have the excellent service he writes about in his book!

Reviews

CanOpener Works!!

How would you like a utility that could look inside, retrieve and store text, graphics, sounds or icons from virtually any source, and paste it anywhere you like? That's CanOpener.



How it Works

CanOpener is extremely easy to use. It's a single window interface, so all your commands are no further than that one window. You open (or search for) a file, CanOpener lists what you are able to see within that file, double clicking on any line in the list reveals the contents in the bottom window segment. You can then copy this out and paste it anywhere you like. It's that easy!

The Bottom Line

CanOpener is one of those 'Must Have' utilities. I would put it right up there with Disktop, Suitcase and Master Juggler. It's very elegant, very fast, and very easy. It is invaluable for opening files which you cannot access in any other way, because of file corruption etc...

NewsMakers

Apple CD-ROM Drives get redesigned

Apple is removing the drive fan. This should correct problems that users were having. Apparently the fan blew dust onto the lens mechanism which caused it to be unable to read data. Apple also announced a price decrease on their CD-ROM drives, in a hope of stimulating unit sales. Canadian list went from $1966 to $1295.

NISUS gets an Upgrade

Version 2.1 will read files formatted in Word 3.0 and 4.0 but only if they were saved under Word's slow-save option. You can also produce "pleading pages" with a double vertical rule and page by page line numbering (a feature required for legal documents). NISUS has a whole complement of foreign language dictionaries for those of you with a need for such a thing.

Jasmine Falls

Jasmine Technologies Inc. said that it will file for chapter 11. This could mean that many customers could be left on their own, although a company at MacWorld was said to be interested in providing support.

RAM Prices on the Rise

After over a year and a half of declining prices, RAM prices are definately on the increase. How high could they go. We doubt it could ever climb to the horrendous levels of early last year. This rise appears to be caused by Japanese and Korean manufacturers shifting production of SIMM modules to the new 4 Mbyte chips.

Metamorphosis Released

Alsys Corp has released Metamorphosis, a program that can turn downloadable Postscript fonts into EPS files.

WriteNow 2.2

T/Maker has released a major upgrade to their popular word processor.

Silicon Beach-Aldus Merger

Silicon Beach Software has now become a part of Aldus Corp. This has to be a good move for everyone, giving Aldus a broader product line from top to bottom, and functionally adding a low end page layout program.

Voice-Mail on the Way

Farallon has licenced its voice drivers to both Microsoft and CE Software to include voice mail as part of their mail offerings. QuickMail 2.2 will offer voice mail to a limited extent until final implementation is available. WordPerfect 2.0 showed voice mail at MacWorld as part of the new WordPerfect Office, due to ship midsummer.

NCMC Membership Profile

Family Members	300
Corporate Members	19
Associate Members	60
MUG's	67
Dealer Paid Members	2

This means we have over 360 card carrying members of the NCMC. It also means more work to be spread around to more people, so don't be afraid to volunteer for *Bulletin & Update* duties.

Mac-Update

• *Clip-Humour*

A broken 512 non "e" is better than 250 shares of Campeau stock (down from $ 27/share Oct89 to $ 0.99 Apr29/90. Trade you a 400K disk drive for 500 shares of Campeau!

• Read April 10th's MacWeek 200 to see who the real power users are. Interesting reading as well as great stats to quote to the DOS boys at the water cooler ! Did you know that the University of Texas (Austin Campus) has the largest single installation of Macs in the U.S. ? They have over 9000 Macs in use on campus, NOT including those personal Macs owned by students. Awesome! How about Hughes Aircraft at their Longbeach Calif. plant ...7500 Macs in that installation alone. How about Lawrence Livermore National Labs, with 4850. Honeywell in Phoenix Ariz. is 100 % Macintosh, with their 662 Macs. The total number of Macs in use at all Univ. of California campuses is over 11,500. Remember, this does NOT include student Macs !

• You laughed at your friend who bought FullWrite Professional for $99 and waited two years for the memory to run it, and who may now use MacWrite II. Find him/her and offer him/her $ 25 cash for his/her serial #'s. Ashton-Tate's offering *Tycho* to registered FWP users for $ 15.00!! What a great program for DTP table layouts. What a deal!

Editors' Note

The *Update* this month has been a combined effort of LeRoy Lees and Alan Cameron, slaving over hot Mac's to meet the deadline and save some postage.

Hardware and software used in this issue included: Mac IIci, PageMaker 3.02, NISUS 2.03, Master Juggler 1.5, Tops 2.1, Garamond 3, Caslon 3, Caslon Open Face, Capture, Adobe Type Reunion and ATM, Laserwriter IINTX, MicroNET MacWren 170, and lots of note paper for taking notes at MacWorld. We are looking for an editor for the next issue, June 1990, so volunteers should contact Cliff or Biti.

Next Meeting

Monday, May 28th
Sir Robert Borden High School
131 Greenbank Road,
Nepean, Ontario

7:00 PM PD Sales
7:30-10 General Meeting

Hardware & Software Questions:

What is the difference between a IIcx and IIci?

TheIIci runs at a clock speed of 25 MHz making it about 50% faster than the IIcx, which runs at 16MHz. The IIci has 512K ROM's compared to the 256K ROMs of the IIcx. The IIci has a built in 256 color board allowing it to run a color monitor — although it runs slower when running in colour, and you need at least 2 MB of RAM. In black and white, four or 16 colors its quite fast. In 256 - colour mode, running off the built-in colour board, it is only as fast as a IIcx. The IIci also has a special slot for a hardware cache card, which can speed it up by 20 to 30%.

What do you do if you forget your TCS password?

For security reasons, we will not give out TCS passwords. If you forget your password, you need to start again with a new account. Sign on under a different name. Your name with middle initial is fine, and create a new password. You'll have to wait at least 24 hours for verification under the new name before you can download, but everything should be okay after that. The lesson learned is : Don't forget your password, don't give out your password, and don't let your kids give it out either.

Macintosh Virus Alert

A new virus for the Mac has been discovered (now named ZUC). If you happen to run across the ZUC with SAM 2.0, you can expect to see alerts to the affect that a CODE resource is being modified. By denying this you can prevent the spread. If you are using SAM Virus Clinic with the Checksum option will will get discrepency alerts on scans or when you attempt to launch an infected applocation.

The new definition feature on SAM can find the virus. Define the new virus as follows:
Virus Name: ZUC
Resource Type: CODE
Resource ID: 1
Resource Size: Any
Search String:
4E56FF74A03641FA04D25290 (hex)
String Offset: Any

What the ZUC virus will do 90 seconds after launching an infected application is take over the cursor and move it diagonaly until you reboot. It seems relatively harmless as all you have to do is reboot your machine. The ZUC virus was first discovered in Italy in March, 1990. It is named after the discoverer, Don Zucchini. Zuc was timed to activated on March 2,1990.